

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (currently amended) A method for inputting control information into a household appliance, which comprises:

performing a biometric fingerprint recognition of a respective user with a biometric fingerprint recognition device of a household appliance;

assigning the user to one of several authorization levels based on the biometric fingerprint recognition; and

enabling at least one of a predetermined minimum range of functions and a predetermined minimum range of setting options of the appliance when at least one of a biometric recognition failure occurs and operation by an unknown user occurs;

granting children at least one of minimal user authorization and minimal setting authorization upon biometric recognition of a respective child's fingerprint;

providing a light with the appliance; and

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authorizing children to turn on the light as the minimal user  
authorization.

Claim 2. (canceled).

Claim 3. (original) The method according to claim 1, which further comprises storing an item of individual supplementary information in the appliance for each user.

Claim 4. (original) The method according to claim 1, which further comprises assigning an item of supplementary information to each authorization level.

Claim 5. (original) The method according to claim 1, which further comprises activating supplementary information in the form of individual settings dependent upon a recognition of the user's fingerprint.

Claim 6. (original) The method according to claim 5, which further comprises activating supplementary information by the fingerprint as a deviation from defaults for functions in different authorization levels.

Claims 7 - 8. (canceled).

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Claim 9. (currently amended) ~~The method according to claim~~

~~7, which further comprises: A method for inputting control~~

information into a household appliance, which comprises:

performing a biometric fingerprint recognition of a respective

user with a biometric fingerprint recognition device of a

household appliance;

assigning the user to one of several authorization levels

based on the biometric fingerprint recognition; and

enabling at least one of a predetermined minimum range of

functions and a predetermined minimum range of setting options

of the appliance when at least one of a biometric recognition

failure occurs and operation by an unknown user occurs;

granting children at least one of minimal user authorization

and minimal setting authorization upon biometric recognition

of a respective child's fingerprint;

providing a stove as the appliance; and

authorizing children to at least one of turn on the light of

the stove and to activate a temperature of the stove suitable

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for reheating prepared foods as the minimal user  
authorization.

Claim 10. (currently amended) ~~The method according to claim~~  
~~7, which further comprises:~~ A method for inputting control  
information into a household appliance, which comprises:

performing a biometric fingerprint recognition of a respective  
user with a biometric fingerprint recognition device of a  
household appliance;

assigning the user to one of several authorization levels  
based on the biometric fingerprint recognition; and

enabling at least one of a predetermined minimum range of  
functions and a predetermined minimum range of setting options  
of the appliance when at least one of a biometric recognition  
failure occurs and operation by an unknown user occurs;

granting children at least one of minimal user authorization  
and minimal setting authorization upon biometric recognition  
of a respective child's fingerprint;

providing a stove as the appliance; and

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authorizing children to at least one of turn on the light of the stove and to activate a temperature of the stove between approximately 50° and 60° C. as the minimal user authorization.

Claim 11. (original) The method according to claim 1, which further comprises protecting the appliance against unintentional changes once an authorized user completes at least one of a setting and a programming of the appliance.

Claim 12. (original) The method according to claim 1, which further comprises authorizing changes of the appliance only after a new subsequent identification of an authorized user occurs.

Claim 13. (original) The method according to claim 1, which further comprises activating a childproofing function of the appliance by placement of a predetermined finger of an authorized user.

Claim 14. (original) The method according to claim 13, which further comprises deactivating the childproofing function by reapplication of the predetermined finger of the authorized user.

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Claim 15. (currently amended) ~~The method according to claim~~

~~1, which further comprises~~ A method for inputting control

information into a household appliance, which comprises:

performing a biometric fingerprint recognition of a respective

user with a biometric fingerprint recognition device of a

household appliance;

assigning the user to one of several authorization levels

based on the biometric fingerprint recognition;

enabling at least one of a predetermined minimum range of

functions and a predetermined minimum range of setting options

of the appliance when at least one of a biometric recognition

failure occurs and operation by an unknown user occurs; and

activating a childproofing function of the appliance by

placement of a predetermined finger of an authorized user and

not running through appliance menus.

Claim 16. (original) The method according to claim 15, which

further comprises deactivating the childproofing function by

reapplication of the predetermined finger of the authorized

user and not running through the appliance menus.

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Claim 17. (original) The method according to claim 1, which further comprises performing the biometric recognition with a capacitive measurement of the fingerprint.

Claim 18. (original) The method according to claim 17, which further comprises performing the capacitive measurement of the fingerprint with a semiconductor array.

Claim 19. (original) The method according to claim 17, which further comprises performing the capacitive measurement of the fingerprint with a silicon chip.

Claim 20. (original) The method according to claim 1, which further comprises performing the biometric recognition by optically scanning the user's finger.

Claim 21. (previously presented) The method according to claim 20, which further comprises performing the optical scanning with one of a charge-coupled device (CCD) chip or a row sensor.

Claim 22. (currently amended) ~~The method according to claim 1, which further comprises:~~ A method for inputting control information into a household appliance, which comprises:

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performing a biometric fingerprint recognition of a respective  
user with a biometric fingerprint recognition device of a  
household appliance;

assigning the user to one of several authorization levels  
based on the biometric fingerprint recognition;

enabling at least one of a predetermined minimum range of  
functions and a predetermined minimum range of setting options  
of the appliance when at least one of a biometric recognition  
failure occurs and operation by an unknown user occurs; and

centrally monitoring at least one of: control information  
entry; and at least one of control and monitoring of  
appliances, at a location in a networked household.

Claim 23. (original) The method according to claim 22, which  
further comprises at least one of storing and editing  
information selected from the group consisting of cost data,  
usage information, and consumption information at the  
appliance.

Claim 24. (original) The method according to claim 23, which  
further comprises at least one of storing and editing  
information selected from the group consisting of cost data,



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usage information, and consumption information at the appliance in a central device.

Claim 25. (original) The method according to claim 23, which further comprises at least one of storing and editing the information in a multi-dimensional user memory.

Claim 26. (original) The method according to claim 23, which further comprises outputting the information as at least one of optical and acoustical information one of during and after recognition of the user.

Claim 27. (original) The method according to claim 26, which further comprises outputting the information over a local network.

Claim 28. (original) The method according to claim 27, which further comprises at least one of reading the user memory, editing the memory, and processing the information as data by an external service provider one of across an interface at the appliance, over a local network, and over a data line.

Claims 29 - 34. (canceled).